

**REMARKS**

**Restriction Requirement**

Applicants herein acknowledge the restriction requirement in the above-referenced application. Claims 1 through 44 are currently pending in the application. The Office has identified the following groups of claims as being drawn to separate inventions:

Group I – claims 1-12 and 36-40, drawn to process, classified in class 438, subclass 123;

Group II – claims 13-17 and 41-44, drawn to a product, classified in class 361, subclass 813; and

Group III – claims 18-35, drawn to a product, classified in class 257, subclass 666.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-2 and 36-40 without traverse.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicants note the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on August 20, 2001 and note that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein.

**Preliminary Amendment**

Applicants' undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on November 30, 2001, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants' undersigned attorney will be happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

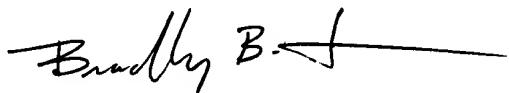
**In The Drawings**

As set forth above, enclosed are replacement formal drawings revised as previously proposed. An Appendix including replacement sheets of formal drawings is attached following page 4 of this paper.

**CONCLUSION**

An early Office Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 10, 2003

BBJ/dlm:djp

Enclosure: Replacement Sheets of Formal Drawings (5 sheets, 8 figures)

Document in ProLaw

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Enclosed herewith are replacement formal drawings incorporating previously proposed revisions to FIGS. 1, 2 and 5. Approval of the replacement formal drawings is respectfully requested.